

# SO EASY FOR THE LEAGUE LEADERS

BY 'NOVA'

Wycombe Wanderers 0, Hendon 4

**AT** their best Wycombe Wanderers are one of the most attractive teams in the Isthmian League to watch. At their more frequent worst they are probably poorer than any other side in the competition and at Loakes Park on Saturday, as the score-line suggests, they certainly had one of their off days.

Against the league leaders and top scorers Hendon, Wycombe put on their most pathetic performance for years—so pathetic that many supporters streamed out of the ground disgusted and disconsolate with 30 minutes of the match still remaining.

In a niggling, bad tempered, scrappy and extremely dull match, almost completely devoid of good football, the few flashes of inspiration that were forthcoming flowed from Hendon. They alone showed some purpose, some of the basic skills.

## HEROIC BUNTING

Perhaps the absence of Worley and Horseman, both out with injuries, robbed the Wanderers of inspiration. Perhaps they were suffering from cup hangover. Or perhaps they were upset by Roystone's inexplicable decision to kick against sun and wind in the first half.

But whatever the supplementary reasons there can be no excuse for the lack of fighting spirit, drive and enthusiasm.

Only the heroic Bunting stood aloof from the mistakes

of his colleagues. He saved a complete rout.

From the moment a beautifully-controlled Hendon move after four minutes play ended with Knox shooting home an angled drive, Wycombe seemed demoralised. In fact so pathetic were the Wanderers' forward thrusts that when O'Rourke scored Hendon's second goal after 23 minutes; with an intended centre which was blown in by the wind, Swannell had not had to make a single save.

## TWO INJURED

When right-half Walker, of Hendon, and then Merrick—who again looked out of his depth in senior football—were made limping passengers on the wings the game became even more unbalanced and untidy.

A few moments of cheer came when the burly Hyde added two more goals to the Hendon total when Pullin, banging in Wycombe's only real shot of the entire match, hit the underside of the bar, and when the referee himself raised an occasional horselaugh with some peculiar or finicky decision.

For the remainder Hendon just toyed with the Wanderers, stepping up their pace whenever required, but usually just watching their opponents run themselves into trouble.

**Wycombe**—C. Bunting; J. Beck, G. Pullin; G. Maharg, P. Roystone, A. Lewis; B. French, L. Merrick, P. Lowen, J. Balson, P. Hodges.

**Hendon**—J. Swannell; M. Williams, R. Ellison; R. Walker, G. Riddey, T. Knox; D. Hyde, G. O'Rourke, L. Churchill, J. Quail, P. Slade.